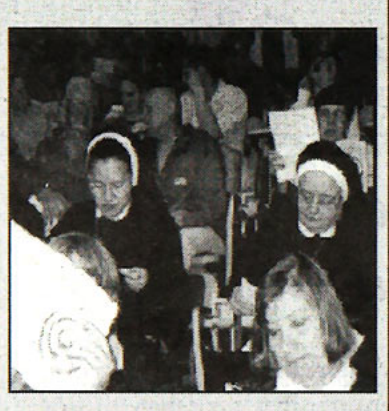
the Lions' Pride

Of Saint Leo University

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2003 VOLUME XXXVII No. 6 SINCE 1965

Today



Cool Jazz Tunes Sooze the Flordia Heat in Selby

"The Robert Winslow Jazz Ensemble" kept the blues away at Saint Leo University, where the audience was "all about the jazz." Page 3

Student Profile: Karen Christie

This extraordinary student at Saint Leo University succeeds without the use of her eyes. Page 4

Hit me! Alright, I'll stay.

Spring means many things, one of which is Residence Life's annual Casino Night. Read all about the fun and prizes. Page 5

Sports Extravaganza!

Catch up on all the latest in Saint Leo athletics and find out how your favorite team is doing. Page 6

Bling, Bling

Getting ready to graduate? Here's some financial advice you can use. Page 8

Saint Leo University and Habitat for Humanity Help Those in Need

"Collegiate Challenge" provides service opportunity over break

BY JAY KUBICA
Co-Editor

For many college students, Spring Break was a time to relax and travel to such sunny destinations as Daytona Beach and Panama City. But for those participating in Habitat for Humanity's "Collegiate Challenge," Spring Break was a time to serve their fellow man in Valdosta, GA.

Saint Leo University students from six countries participated in the home construction event, alongside 100 students from Mississippi State University, Weselyn College, Denison University, and the College of Saint Scholastica.

Students from Saint Leo included Xiafeng Lin, from Kirkland, China, Daniel Kahl, from Trinidad, Shannon Schambeau, from Dade City, FL, Teri Smith from Webster, FL, Victoria Chiriboga, from Ecuador, Tony Domingo, from Hernando, FL, and Fatima Turay, from Sierra Leone.

SLU students meet Millard Fuller (founder of Habitat) on visit to Habitat Headquarters. (Courtesy SLU Public Relations)

They were joined by Saint Leo alumni Laura Reyes, from Port Richey, FL, and Chikara Saunders, from Freeport, Bahamas. All volunteers worked from March 10 to 14 framing 36 houses. The houses will be completed in June by the Jimmy Carter Work Project.

Dr. Randy Criss organized and led the Saint Leo contingent. Dr. Criss feels strongly about the importance of the "Collegiate Challenge" and other service trips.

"Spring Break service trips really speak to the mission values of our University," Dr. Criss explained. "The service trips give us a chance to model these values in our lives. It not only makes a difference in our lives, but in the lives of orphans in Haiti, and in the

HABITAT PAGE 4

New Election Reform Hits Campuses

Student governments adopting fair election methods

BY JOHN RUSSELL
The Center for Voting and Democracy

In a vote that reflects a growing national trend toward better voting methods, the Associated Students of UC-San Diego (ASUCSD) have approved instant runoff voting for student government elections. ASUCSD members voted overwhelmingly for the measure after a Voting Systems Task Force unanimously selected instant runoff voting over nine other systems.

Recommended by Roberts Rules of Order, IRV simulates a majority runoff election, but in a single election. As with traditional "delayed" runoffs, a candidate wins if receiving a majority (more than 50%) of the vote. But instead of holding two separate elections, voters vote for both their first choice and for their runoff choices by ranking candidates: first choice, second and third. If no candidate receives 50% of first choices, the instant runoff takes place. The weak candidates are eliminated, and ballots are counted for the top-ranked candidate on each ballot in the runoff. The system ensures a majority of students support the winning candidate, without the cost, negative campaigning and drop in turnout often associated with delayed runoff elections.

Many colleges such as Caltech, MIT, Rice, Harvard and Princeton have used IRV for years, but now the number is growing rapidly. Schools recently adopting IRV include Duke, Vassar, University of California – Davis, University of Maryland, University of Illinois, Whitman and William and Mary. This November, San Francisco will become the first major U.S. city to use IRV for citywide elections. IRV legislation has been introduced this year in 20 states.

The Voting System Task Force analyzed 10 different voting methods and then conducted mock elections with their top four choices to gauge student reaction. "The Voting System Task Force decided that IRV was the best

ELECTION PAGE 7

Opinions

EDITORIAL

Senioritis is in the Air

BY JESSICA WILLIAMS
Co-Editor

SAINT LEO – Cramming for tests, waiting to the last minute for papers, and sleeping rather than going to class. Does this sound familiar? If this sounds like you, you might be coming down with a case of senioritis.

Every semester students around the country are faced with anticipation for the graduation and the summer. This anticipation causes schoolwork to be placed on the back burner.

Students would rather go to parties, which are more exciting than Philosophy 101. Freshmen are often faced with a form of senioritis because they are overwhelmed by their newfound freedom. They tend to party too much. For this reason, many freshmen do not come back for the second semester.

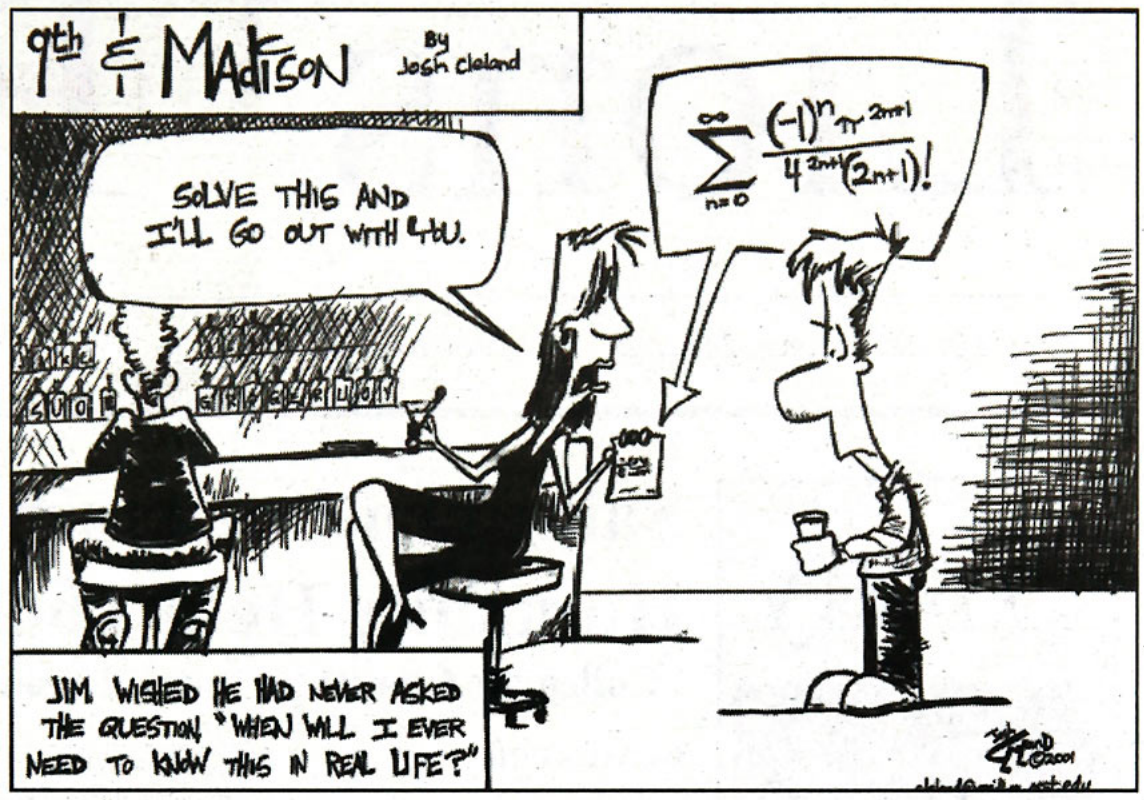
In the case of seniors, after four years, they want to get the hell out of school. For what? To work for the next 30 years; that sounds like fun!

I know I'm looking forward to May for graduation, but I know I'm going to miss having class or homework. My fiancé graduated last May and said he would rather have class every day and be a professional student than work every day.

Many seniors do not care about their classes during the last semester because they are graduating regardless of what grades they make. Their grades have been good so far, so one semester of slacking will not make a substantial difference.

This year I have spoken to underclassmen that still have another year or more to go, and they are suffering from senioritis more than seniors themselves. I still have yet to figure out the cause for this, but I am thinking it is pure laziness.

My advice to everyone is to enjoy this semester, and, for those graduating, make the best of your last classes because you will miss them when they are gone.



Voter Apathy or Political Reality:

Expanding Choice for Student Governments

BY JOHN RUSSELL
The Center for Voting and Democracy

In this season of student government elections, young people across the country are being asked to vote for their student representatives. But many times this plea is answered with a more difficult question. "Why should I vote? It doesn't count anyway"

While sometimes seen as a tired refrain of apathetic young people or a lament about the limited ambitions and powers of some student governments, examining this statement can reveal a deeper political problem. One of the basic ideas of democracy, that the people vote and then receive representation in government, is not being realized by current political system. Rather than expressing apathy, students are being realistic about how much impact their vote can really have.

Under the current winner-take-all plurality voting system used in most U.S. elections, a candidate who wins a bare 51% majority of votes can receive 100% of the representation. This means that as many as 49% of votes do not lead to a voice in government. For these people, their votes truly do not count.

But a new political reform that is gaining momentum on college campuses can ensure that votes count and all voters are represented. Choice voting, a form of full representation, was passed overwhelmingly last month by the Associated Students of University of California-Davis. Instead of just marking one candidate, the system allows voters to rank candidates in order of preference. These preferences are then used to award seats in multi-member districts so that a majority of voters will elect a majority of seats, but not all the seats. If there are 10 seats to be filled, a candidate needs the support of about a tenth of students to win a seat. If there are five seats, a candidate will win with the support of 20% of students.

Choice voting dramatically increases the chance that a ballot will lead to representation. If a smaller group of like-minded voters prefer a candidate, they can win at least one seat. Also, if a particular voter's first choice is not strong enough to win a seat, their second choice is taken into consideration. The ranking of candidates ensures that more than 90% of ballots lead directly to representation when electing 10 seats.

This is especially significant in the context of student governments where many times elections are dominated by a particular group on campus. The winner-take-all system currently used at most schools allows this dominant group to win a vast majority of seats. Under choice voting, smaller student groups can consolidate their support and win representation. The typical result is a more diverse student government that represents all views within the student body.

The benefits of choice voting for student legislatures has been recognized at several schools. In addition its adoption by a 67%-33% student body vote at UC-Davis, Harvard, Princeton, University of Illinois, Carleton College and Vassar all use choice voting or another form of full representation. Even more schools use winner-take-all variant of choice voting called instant runoff voting. On the international scene, the United States and Canada are the only major democracies that still use winner-take-all exclusively for national elections, and nearly all British universities elect their student governments with choice voting.

While the low voter turnout of 18-24 year-olds in national elections is seen as a crisis, these numbers are just as compelling at the student election level. Each spring there is usually an article or editorial about whether student government elections really matter. This debate includes many factors, including the legitimacy and power of student-elected bodies. If nobody votes, the argument goes, then student governments don't represent students and therefore don't matter.

But when we examine the winner-take-all electoral system, the opposite is true. Student governments don't represent enough of the students, and therefore they don't vote. Implementing choice voting and providing representation to all students, would be a big step toward reversing this trend. Winning a seat at the table is a powerful incentive to care about the decisions made there.

Lions' Pride

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Jazz Concert Rings in the Spring at Saint Leo

BY NATASHA FREDERICKS
Staff Writer

Welcome to the Spring Jazz Concert, featuring "The Robert Winslow Jazz Ensemble," brought to you by Saint Leo University's Student Affairs and the School of Arts and Sciences. Directed and performed by Robert Winslow, and his musically inclined accompanists, Jim Rungo, Rodney Rojas and the amiable, Gary Kolosey.

The group was formally named a few years ago, but the members began to form into their present state about 20 years ago at the University of Florida. Their musical relationship took little effort. The four just seemed to have the right "chemistry" said Rungo. The simply fell into step a natural, musically inclined, symbiotic relationship.

The four performed on the fourth of March from 7:30 until 9:00pm. The performance was open to the public and drew a crowd, of just under one-hundred spectators ranging from Saint Leo students and alumni to members of the local community.

Students comments on the performance ranged from "I had to" from Moril Justilien, a Saint Leo freshman.

"I'm all about jazz," said Renee Darette, with a nod toward her professor. Then a resounding voice of Melissa McLeod, a graduate, who said she "loves to hear great jazz music…" And "Good music" said Barbara Scheel, a visitor from outside the Saint Leo community.

In a discussion before the performance Gary Koloskey, gave a short description of the group. "Rob," pointing to Robert Winslow, "is the leader, He plays the keyboard, Rodney [Rojas] plays the sax[aphone], Jim [Rongo] plays the drums and I [Gary Koloskey] play guitar." Koloskey can also sate but he doesn't mention it. He went on to explain that his three companions all play for pay and he is a Physics teacher by trade, and a musician for his passion. Kelsey then spoke about his childhood, about his mother and father, an artist and musician, and how his love for art was sparked from a need to communicate, through a medium of choices, the guitar, or as he put it " I started to play to meet people, to communicate with them…" later Koloskey said " you know there are only two types of music. I would like to thing I play the good kind," with a wide smile.

Audience members are "all about the jazz" as they enjoy the performance in Selby Auditorium. (Courtesy Natasha Fredericks)

"I think Erroll Garner said that." Perhaps the attribute should be sent to artist Kurt Weill.

Though the performance was toe tapping, finger snapping good, the groups opening songs sounded more like loud elevator music than the "hot jazz" described by Professor Hammond put, but the group salvaged any damage when they preformed "Mercy, Mercy, Mercy" by Josef Zawinul.

War Leads Citizens to Oppose Taxes, Exercise Rights

BY ROTIMI AGBABIAKA
Daily Texan (U. Texas-Austin)

(U-WIRE) AUSTIN, Texas - Tuesday, many Americans will grudgingly complete the unpleasant yearly ritual of filing income tax returns. However, for Mary Loehr, it will be an occasion for commemorating the choice she made several years ago to refrain from paying taxes.

The Ithaca, N.Y., native will be joined by thousands of men and women around the nation who, for religious, moral or ethical reasons, label themselves as conscientious objectors to war. Their refusal to pay taxes stems from their opposition to the large percentage of the national budget allocated to military spending.

"We don't want our money to pay for killing," she said.

Loehr is a member of the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee, an organization that has helped organize various activities and events across the nation to educate the public about U.S. military spending and raise support for their cause. In Austin, the committee will be one of many organizations that will come together to organize a press conference on the north plaza of the Federal Building and the annual Tax Day protest at the downtown post office.

The main objective of these activities will be to raise awareness and support for a Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Act, said Andy McKenna, the main organizer and a member of Austin Conscientious Objectors to Military Taxation. The bill calls for the secretary of the treasury to establish a fund into which the taxes of citizens who are designated conscientious objectors to war can be deposited. The money in the fund would not be allocated for any military purposes. "We want to be able to pay our taxes, just not to support war," McKenna said.

The bill has been introduced in Congress several times with no success, McKenna said. Last year, its co-sponsors included Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, and current House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi.

"This year we hope to have more sponsors, and to do that we have to mobilize grass-roots support," McKenna said.

The National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund, which was founded in 1971 to champion this cause, will be sending citizen petition signatures and endorsements to Congress and

War Taxes Page 5

highlighting the negative effects of high military spending on such sectors as education and health care.

Various religious, secular and antiwar groups will also be present to make statements and show their support.

"We support the ability of people not to be coerced into supporting activities that go against their personal or religious beliefs," said Ruth Epstein, a member of the board of directors of the

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Karen Christie Overcomes Obstacles with Success

BY ALLISON MYATT
Assistant Editor

Some students at Saint Leo University have had the opportunity to cross paths with an extraordinary student, Karen Christie.

For those who do not know Christie, she is an amazing person. But, like everyone else on campus, she has her own unique qualities. Karen is blind, but she has not let that stop her from being an ordinary college student with a full course load and a backpack full of books.

Karen Christie is a freshman with an undecided major, but she is interested in a degree in Communications. She hopes to become a radio disc jockey if she does major in Communications.

Like any college student, Christie likes to have fun with the friends she has made at Saint Leo.

"I am happy about all the friends I have," said Christie.

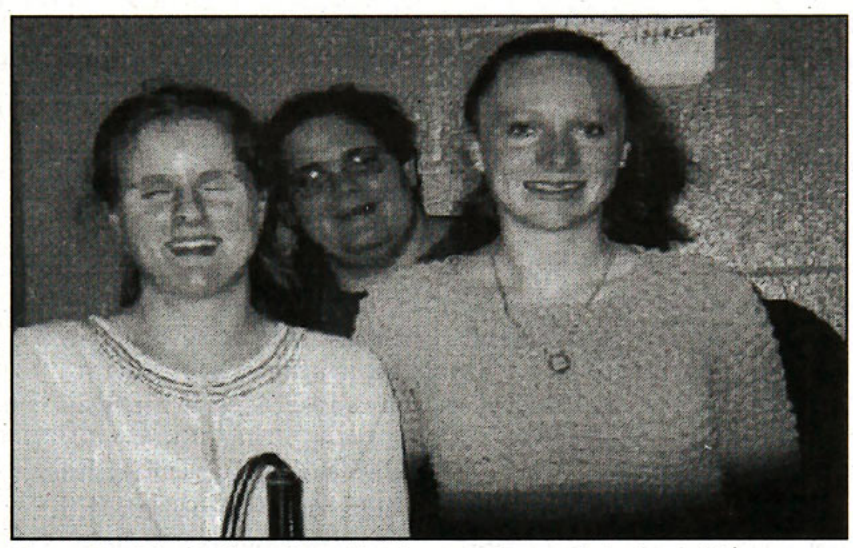
But, like the new friends she has made at Saint Leo, she also encounters obstacles when it comes to class; however, the obstacles Christie encounters is a little different. One of the obstacles she encounters is not being able to see when professors bring in objects to help students see what he or she is talking about. The second obstacle she faces is getting to class on time.

"My English class has been hard to get to because someone [whoever is signed up] forgets to pick me up and take me, so I am sometimes 10 or 15 minutes late," said Christie.

Like any normal college student, she encounters things she likes and dislikes. When asked what her favorite food was, she responded, "I like the meatloaf in the cafeteria, chocolate mousse, and cheesecake."

Of course, Christie also dislikes some food. A few of the foods she dislikes are egg salad, tapioca, and cheese.

Karen said, "There is just something about the texture of it. It is just BLAH!"



Karen Christie (left) and her friends pose for a quick photo. (Courtesy Natasha Fredericks)

Christie is also quite the comedian. She never misses a chance to crack a joke, but she also knows when to be serious. And when it comes to her education, she is very serious. In fact, one of her greatest accomplishments since beginning college is maintaining excellent grades in her classes. Another accomplishment for Christie is going from her residence hall room to the cafeteria or to Lewis Hall on her own.

Though college has had a big impact on her life, Christie said her parents have had the greatest impact.

"They have always made sure that I would be able to get the best education," she said, "and they have made it clear that just because I have no sight, I am just like everyone else."

Habitat Con't

lives of people living in homes that don't have running water."

Domingo appreciated the energy Dr. Criss brought to the trip.

"It was very nice to see him off-campus. His enthusiasm from the classroom carried over, just more informal," Domingo said. "He's a ball of energy and great to be around."

Saint Leo's volunteers were treated to several surprises during their stay, including a meeting with Millard Fuller, the founder of Habitat for Humanity, at the Global Village exhibit at America's Georgia. Fuller was filming a promotional video there, but took time out to chat with the Saint Leo volunteers. Part of the chat was featured in Fuller's video.

"He speaks in a Southern drawl," Dr. Criss, who has met Fuller before, recounted. "When he talks about Habitat he sounds like an old-fashioned Southern Baptist preacher on the stump. He's very down to earth, and very focused on his mission, which is Habitat for Humanity."

Dr. Arthur F. Kirk, Jr., President of Saint Leo, made a special trip to join the volunteers for a day.

"He had a business trip in Tallahassee, and he rearranged his schedule so he could spend the day with us," Dr. Criss said. "His dedication to service and students is incredible. We appreciated it, the other college students appreciated it, and I know Habitat for Humanity appreciated it."

Saint Leo alumni stood out at the "Collegiate Challenge." Chris Mixon, graduate of the Savannah Center, arranged for lunch to be provided for one day by the Atlanta Gas & Light Company.

The success of Saint Leo at the "Collegiate Challenge" has raised hopes for greater accomplishments in other service trips.

"I would like to see 30% of our faculty with 30% of our students involved in Spring Break service trips of various kinds," Dr. Criss stated. "We will not only repeat a similar trip, but hope to add more trips. The key is generating student interest."

For some, such as Domingo, the interest is already there.

"This is the second time I've done it," Domingo said. "I plan to do it again next year, provided Dr. Criss agrees to do it again."

LIONS' PRIDE RECRUITMENT MEETING

Monday, April 28, 2003 @ Student Activities Center
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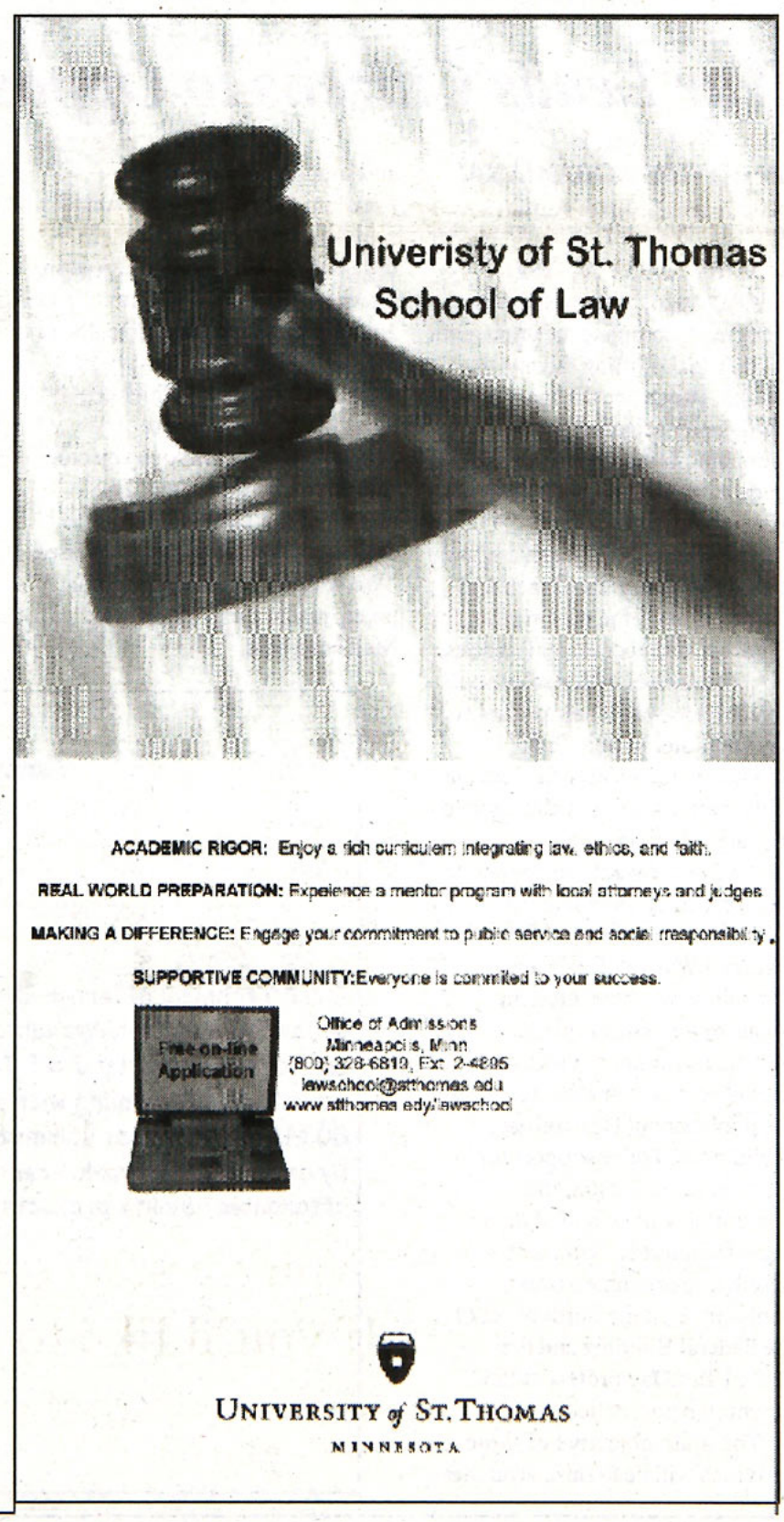


Large Crowd Participates in Casino Night

NATASHA FREDERICKS
Staff Writer

Twenty-one! Try to keep a straight face, eyes looking forward, head-up. The room is full of exited chatter and the smell of Mexican spices. There are two betting chips on the table. Turn the cards face up.

A winner," says the dealer suddenly, "double the winnings." He lays four chips next to the previous two.

No, this is not a real casino; it is Saint Leo's Casino night. The Residence Life Staff's bi-semester, campus community event.

"We promote community events such as Casino Night to try to enhance student and faculty involvement… community involvement," said Residence Life Member, Desiree Walker, "We are just trying to build campus community."

The Saint Leo Casino night took place on Tuesday, February 18. Students, faculty, staff and their families were offered a fun and safe environment in which to bond with other members of the Saint Leo community. By 7:30pm hundreds had gathered inside the McDonald Center.

The students gathered around betting tables, blackjack, and bingo. Many quickly gambled away the chips they received at the entrance door. Luckily, the Residence's Life Staff offered them "second chances" if the students could answer trivia questions about Saint Leo and its staff.

Not surprisingly, all student participants became enthralled in the hoopla and the chance to win a varity of prizes: televisions, DVD players, stereos, and CDs.

There was not a single student who could keep her mouth closed as she gawked at the pile.

"The prizes were so awesome," said Heather Ross, a Saint Leo freshman.

Before the event, Residence life staff was quoted as being eager to continue its tradition of community through casino because of "it's previous success for the past couple of years." After the event, the staff commented that Casino Night had been a great success.

Flyers for the event read, "We supply the chips, you just have fun!!" No doubt Saint Leo delivered, yet again.

War Taxes Con't

American Civil Liberties Union of Texas.

The ACLU considers the current tax code as being in opposition to the constitutional right to freedom of religion, Epstein said.

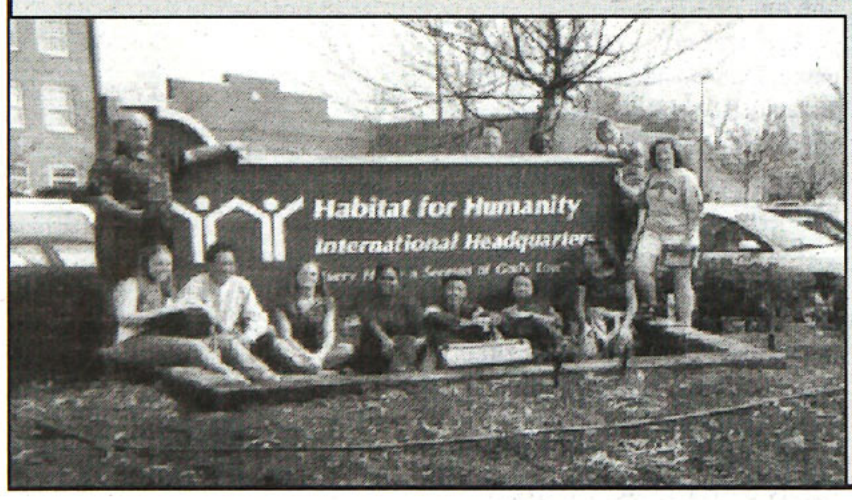
"People who conscientiously object to supporting a war have their intention subverted by our national budgetary process," she said.

Under the Military Selective Service Act, conscientious objectors do not have to partake in war combat. However, this provision is thwarted by the demands of our tax system, McKenna said.

"We don't want to pay others to do the killing we won't do," he said.

Habitat for Humanity's "Collegiate Challenge" gave Saint Leo students from six nations a chance to serve while making new friends.

(Courtesy Dr. Randy Criss)



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Sports

SLU Athletics
Special to the Lions' Pride

BASEBALL TEAM HOSTS ROLLINS, AT BARRY FOR SSC

A non-conference single game at home against Rollins College and a three-game Sunshine State Conference road series against Barry University highlighted action for the Saint Leo University baseball team.

The Saint Leo/Barry series featured a single game, and a doubleheader. It was the final conference road trip of the season for Coach Ricky Ware and his team.

The Lions, now 4-10 in league play and 15-26 overall, seek to rebound after a tough three-game series with the University of Tampa, ranked No. 2 in the nation and second in the first South Region poll.

Tampa took all three games. Saint Leo led 11-9 in the series opener, heading into the bottom of the ninth, but the Spartans scored three times to grab a 12-11 victory. Tampa took both ends of Saturday's doubleheader by scores of 10-2 and 13-6.

In the opening game of the series, junior designated hitter Bryan Melko of Spring Hill, FL, junior first baseman Julian Davis of Tampa, FL and junior shortstop Adriel Fiallo of Tampa, FL were the offensive leaders.

Melko went three-for-five (double and two singles) with two runs batted in, while Davis went three-for-five (home run and two singles) and two RBIs, and Fiallo went two-for-four (two singles) and two RBIs. Senior second baseman Michael Bradley of Orlando, FL added a pair of doubles and drove in one run, and junior center fielder Joe DiLeo had a double, a single and knocked in one run.

Melko's two-run homer provided the majority of offense in the first game on Saturday, while Davis added a double and single, and junior left fielder Scott Barber had a pair of singles.

In the final game of the series, DiLeo had a bases clearing double; Davis had a double, two singles and drove in one run; junior designated hitter Jim Hanks of Pompano Beach, FL had two singles and two RBIs and Melko added a double.

Davis had an outstanding series. He went eight-for-13 for a .615 batting average, scored four runs, drove in three, had two doubles, a home run, stole a base, and handled 21 chances without making an error. Melko batted .384 on five-for-13, and DiLeo had four runs batted in and went three-for-10 (.300).

TENNIS TEAMS CONCLUDE REGULAR SEASON

The Saint Leo University men's and women's tennis teams finish regular season play this week with one match each. The men play at Rollins College Tuesday, while the women entertain Webber International University Wednesday at 3 p.m.

Coach Tim Crosby's team next turn their attention to the Sunshine State Conference team tournament, April 26-28 in Miami, FL.

In action last week, the women dropped all three matches to fall to 0-16 on the season, while the men lost their only match at home last Saturday to Lynn University by a 9-0 score. Their record now stands at 1-11.

The women fell 8-1 to the University of Tampa on Monday away and to Eckerd College on Tuesday away by a 9-0 score. Lynn dealt the Lions a 9-0 setback on Saturday at home.

Sophomore Nikki Prack of Hudson, FL picked up the only point in the Tampa match, wining at No. 6 singles by scores of 6-2, 6-1.

LION'S SOFTBALL TEAM ENTERTAINS FLORIDA SOUTHERN

The Lions, now 6-16 in Sunshine State Conference play and 19-30 overall, played at home against league opponent Florida Southern College.

Saint Leo went 1-3 in league play against the top two teams. The lone win came in the opener against Lynn University by a 1-0 score. The Knights gained a split in the doubleheader by winning the nightcap 5-4.

Barry University, ranked No. 1 in the nation, dealt the Lions two losses by scores of 9-4 and 11-1. The second game went five innings.

Sophomore Heather Gamlin of North Delta, British Columbia hurled a two-hit shutout against Lynn, allowing only two singles. She didn't walk a batter and fanned three. Saint Leo scored the only run of the game in the fifth when senior right fielder Jessica McKenzie of Tamarac, FL reached on an error, stole second, advanced to third on a single by senior designated player Jennifer Kwaitkowski of Clark Summitt, PA and scored on an error. Freshman catcher Katie Kilfoile of Valrico, FL had a double and a single in the game.

In the second game against Lynn, junior third baseman Gina McKeon of Pearl River, NY went four-for-four with a run scored and a run batted in. She had a double and three singles. Sophomore second baseman Denyve Duncan of Dunedin, FL had two singles and scored twice, while McKenzie had a double, a single and drove in one run.

Against Barry in the opening game, Duncan had a triple, single and an RBI, while McKenzie had an RBI triple. McKenzie went two-for-two with a solo home run in the nightcap.

For the week, McKenzie hit .500 (5-for-10) with a double, triple, home run, three runs batted in, a stolen base and a run scored, while McKeon hit .500 (5-for-10) and Kilfoile .400 (4-for-10).

LION'S SET FOR SSC MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

The annual Sunshine State Conference men's and women's golf championships will be held Monday and Tuesday at Rio Pinar Country Club in Orlando, FL. It will be the season ending tournament for the Saint Leo University teams.

The women competed in the Embry-Riddle Invitational, April 5-6 at Daytona Beach, FL and finished fifth in their final regular season event, while the men were 15th in a field of 18 at the Southeastern Collegiate Championships in Valdosta, GA, which was also their final test before the SSC Championships.

The women of Coach Melissa Lynn finished the 36-hole event at the Daytona Beach South Golf & Country Club with a 739 on rounds of 367 and 372. Freshman Alexis Esquia of Tampa, FL finished tied for 19th overall to lead the Lions at 87-84—171, while freshman Tiffany DiPanni of Pawtucket, RI placed 21st at 84-88—172, junior Amy Leach of Port Charlotte, FL was 25th at 86-89—175 and junior Heather Pacana of Clearwater, FL was 30th at 110-111—221.

Inclement weather cancelled the final round of the Southeastern Collegiate Championships. Saint Leo had a 623 for the 36- hole event on 18s of 312 and 311. "Some of us had finished our rounds, but the rain was so heavy, it just wasn't fair for the teams in contention for the championship" said Saint Leo Coach Art Kirk III.

Sophomore John Semeraro of Paducah, KY finished sixth among conference golfers and tied for 18th overall at 73-74—147 to spark Saint Leo. Sophomore Joey Slater of Tampa, FL tied for 71st place at 78-79—157, while senior Bryan Sutton of Lutz, FL tied for 73rd place at 81-77—158.

Senior Chad Clinton of San Antonio, FL tied for 79th overall at 80-81—161, while freshman Peter Kampmann of Riverside, CT rounded out scoring for Saint Leo by finishing 87th overall at 84-81—165.

WRITE HERE

Send letters to the editor and guest columns to the Lions' Pride newsroom, Portable #4.

Or, send your letter/column by e-mail to monarch@saintleo.com

Letters and guest columns must be submitted with student's name, year, and major. Faculty and staff members must include rank and department.

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Entertainment

The Recruit stays afloat with Pacino and Farrell

BY CHUKA OGOSI
Special to the Lion's Pride

"Nothing is as it seems." These were the famous words from Al Pacino in the hit movie "The Recruit." And he was exactly right; the movie appeared great, but in reality it was fair.

Colin Farrell (Minority Report) stars as an intelligent young computer expert, who is recruited by the charismatic veteran CIA agent William Burke played by the legendary Al Pacino (The Godfather). However, as Farrell delves further into the CIA training ground known as the "Farm," he falls into a web of dark secrets, deceit, and dangerous games. Sounds nice, right? Yeah, whatever. One would have to be seriously slow not to have known the antagonist from even the previews of the film. The movie was predictable and saying anything other than that would be naïve. Some parts of the movie were lame, like when Al Pacino's character falls into the fallacy of the talking bad guy.

The pace of the movie was okay, although the end was foreseeable, and no, Joel Siegel (famous critic), it did not keep me guessing to the very end. I would have to be on some serious sedatives to think so.

The characters in this film, unlike many characters in movies today, were useful. Bridget Moynahan's (The Sum of All Fears) character, Layla, was an impressive and good foil for the splendid Colin Farrell. Farrell, who is just getting his overdue and well-deserved fame, provides a hero to the audience that draws the physicality and intelligence of the legends of the screen in the '50s. Al Pacino can do no wrong. His stereotyped character of a law enforcement agent who feels betrayed by the people he works for is overshadowed by his brilliant performance.

In other words, this movie, if not for its good performances, would have fallen into the prestigious class of box office failures. My conclusion is that this is generally a fair movie.

Film's Tenacity

Watch it three or more times

Watch it twice

WATCH IT ONCE

Regret ever seeing it, when I could have used my money for a taco

ELECTION CON'T

option available," said Max Harrington, UCSD freshman senator and task force chair. "The AS heeded our call, and I'm proud to say that UCSD has now joined in a growing movement which is seeking to re-democratize our country,"

A main benefit of IRV cited by the task force was its positive effect on voter turnout. "In our surveys students reported that they felt better represented by IRV than by plurality and some students who haven't voted in past elections even said they would vote in future elections if IRV were implemented," said Georgia Kellogg, an At-large member of the task force.

To ensure representative leaders, many student governments as well as local and state jurisdictions around the country have a majority rule requirement for elections that often leads to runoff elections when one candidate does not garner 50% of the votes. At the student government level these runoffs can result in decreased turnout and increased costs. The administration of a campus-wide election can cost several thousand dollars.

"I think that instant runoff voting is the financially responsible choice since it corrects the problems of runoffs in one system, promotes maximized voter choice and better ensures majority rule," said UCSD freshman senator Mike Schoeck.

The Center for Voting and Democracy, a non-profit, non-partisan organization that promotes fair elections, is a national resource on instant runoff voting and has a special website devoted to IRV on campuses. For information, contact (301) 270-4616 or visit www.fairvote.org.

SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE DAY

April 24

Student Presentation: one until four
Lewis and Crawford Hall and Library

Student Awards: four until five
West end of the Cafeteria

Reception: five to six
Raleigh Greene Room

Review student projects, find out which students receive academic awards from the faculty, and join us for a free reception afterwards

Call 8301 for more information

Leftovers

Indebted Students Beware: Employers Checking Credit

BY SARAH SNYDER
The Lantern (Ohio State U.)

(U-WIRE) COLUMBUS, Ohio - For some, a new stress has been added to the job application process as local employers have begun running credit checks on prospective employees.

"We do run credit checks on those who will handle cash and financial transactions," said Dan Orzano, spokesman for Nationwide Insurance.

"There are issues of corporate ethics, and the protection of our clients is at stake. It's something a lot of companies are becoming aware of," Orzano said.

The Cintas Corporation also runs credit checks on some employees.

"Sales people, delivery truck drivers, basically anybody who will be handling money — not just corporate jobs — get checked," said Shelly McCoy, Cintas human resources manager.

Employers ask for permission from their future employees before running the checks, usually through waivers.

"We never run credit background checks without asking an applicant's permission first," said Orzano.

Doug Gilbert, who graduated from Ohio State University with a degree in business, is not worried about the credit checks.

"I've always been very conscientious about my credit and debt payments. Credit shows that you're a responsible person, which is what employers want," Gilbert said. "It might be bad for some people though. I know a lot of students are in debt," he said.

Others don't think it is a good idea.

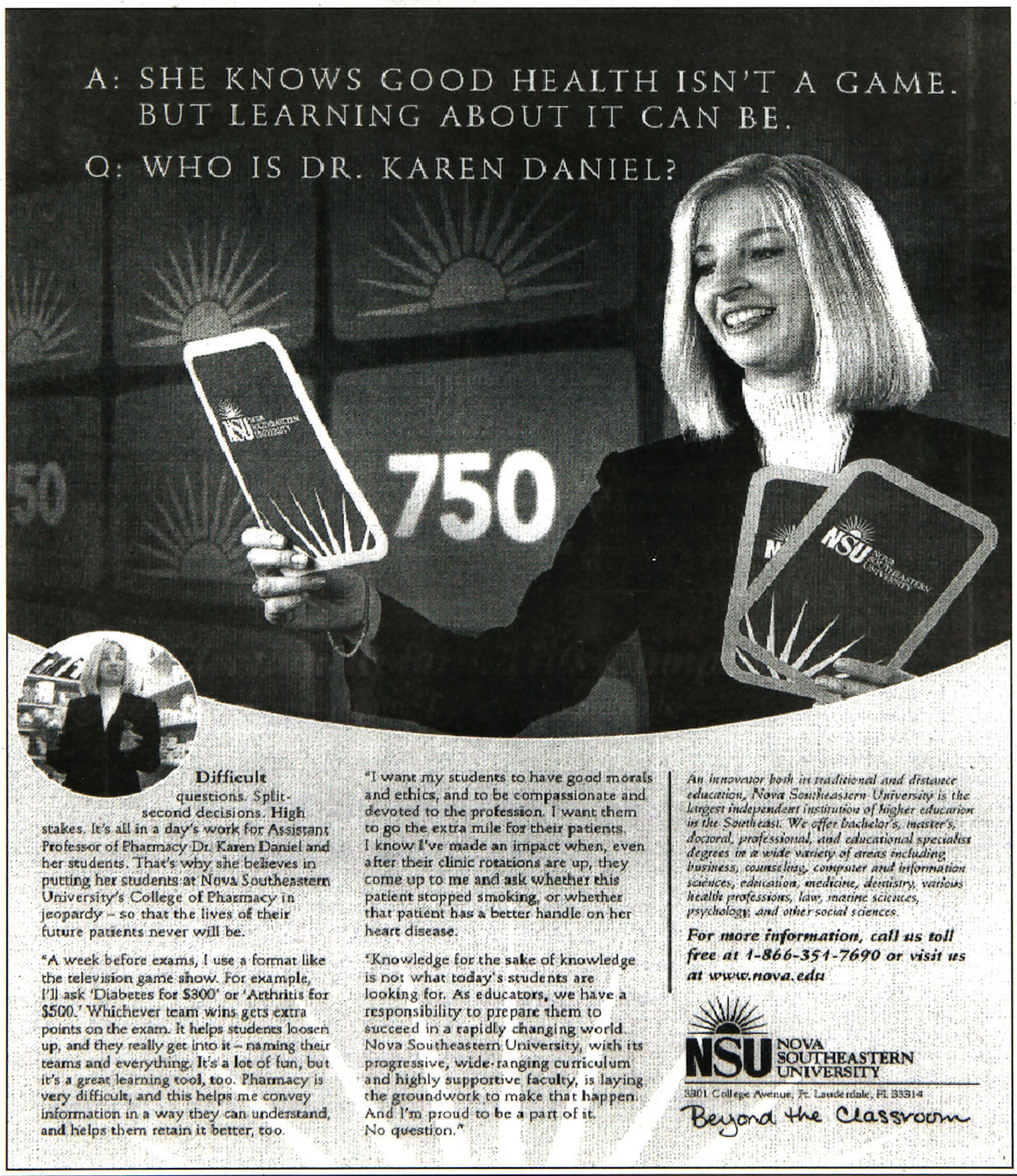
"They're kind of invading my personal privacy," said Brian Politowski, a junior in accounting. "That shouldn't have anything to do with hiring me because I'm not paying them."

Some local companies like The Limited and Cameron Mitchell Restaurants do not research their employees' credit histories.

"I've never had a student come back and say they've had anything like that, but that's between employee and employer," said Pamela Park-Curry, a representative of the OSU Student Career Services.

The companies that are running checks on prospects recommend students be careful with spending because it could hurt their careers.

"You might want to think about your credit history before going for a certain kind of job," Orzano said. "Run a credit report — make sure you know what's on there."



Difficult questions. Split-second decisions. High stakes. It's all in a day's work for Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Dr. Karen Daniel and her students. That's why she believes in putting her students at Nova Southeastern University's College of Pharmacy in jeopardy – so that the lives of their future patients never will be.

"A week before exams, I use a format like the television game show. For example, I'll ask 'Diabetes for $300' or 'Arthritis for $500.' Whichever team wins gets extra points on the exam. It helps students loosen up, and they really get into it – naming their teams and everything. It's a lot of fun, but it's a great learning tool, too. Pharmacy is very difficult, and this helps me convey information in a way they can understand, and helps them retain it better, too.

"I want my students to have good morals and ethics, and to be compassionate and devoted to the profession. I want them to go the extra mile for their patients. I know I've made an impact when, even after their clinic rotations are up, they come up to me and ask whether this patient stopped smoking, or whether that patient has a better handle on her heart disease.

"Knowledge for the sake of knowledge is not what today's students are looking for. As educators, we have a responsibility to prepare them to succeed in a rapidly changing world. Nova Southeastern University, with its progressive, wide-ranging curriculum and highly supportive faculty, is laying the groundwork to make that happen. And I'm proud to be a part of it. No question."

An innovator both in traditional and distance education, Nova Southeastern University is the largest independent institution of higher education in the Southeast. We offer bachelor's, master's, doctoral, professional, and educational specialist degrees in a wide variety of areas including business, counseling, computer and information sciences, education, medicine, dentistry, various health professions, law, marine sciences, psychology, and other social sciences.

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